

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RO, US, OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN TO ROMANIA, JULY
12-14

1. SUMMARY. SENATOR MCGOVERN, ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF AIDES
HOLUM AND DONOVAN HAD AN EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO ROMANIA
JULY 12-14. HIGHPOINT WAS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU
AT BLACK SEA RESORT OF NEPTUNE, REPORTED BUCHAREST 4954. IN
BUCHAREST, DELEGATION MET WITH PRESIDENT OF GRAND NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY (GNA) NICOLAE GIOSAN, FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN ANDREI,
AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
ANGELO MICULESCU; HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE
SUMMARIZED BELOW. CODEL ALSO VISITED PLOIESTI AND AMERICAN
LIBRARY, ONLY SUCH OFF-PREMISES INSTALLATION IN EASTERN EUROPE,
AND WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT MEALS HOSTED BY GNA AND MAYOR OF
CONSTANTA. SENATOR WAS INTERVIEWED BY ROMANIAN RADIO-TV
CORRESPONDENT AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY A NUMBER OF U.S. TOURISTS
WHO TALKED WITH HIM FREELY AND OPENLY, THEREBY PROVIDING
A USEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF U.S.-STYLE DEMOCRACY AND THE
APPROACHABILITY OF SENIOR OFFICIALS. ROMANIAN MEDIA
TREATMENT OF VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL AND SIMILAR
TO COVERAGE ACCORDED SUCH OTHER CODEL VISITS AS SENATOR
STEVENSON LAST JANUARY. WE BELIEVE VISIT MADE A USEFUL
CONTRIBUTION TO U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS BY EXPOSING SENIOR
ROMANIAN OFFICIALS TO VIEWS OF A PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL
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U.S. POLITICAL LEADER. END SUMMARY.

2. GIOSAN. DISCUSSION WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL
TOPICS RATHER THAN PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL SINCE GIOSAN IS
ALSO PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. GIOSAN
STRESSED ROMANIAN DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. IN ALL
ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THEN BRIEFLY REVIEWED

PAST AND CURRENT BILATERAL PROGRAMS. ROMANIA WOULD LIKE TO SEND MORE STUDENTS TO U.S. FOR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, HE EMPHASIZED, BUT IS LIMITED IN DOING SO BY LACK OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM; MOST SUCH SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW PROVIDED BY FAO. SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS STRONG INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT IN DEPTH; HE ALSO OUTLINED SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS OF SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY WHICH ARE DIRECTED TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF DRY AREAS WITH COLD WINTERS. RESPONDING TO SENATOR'S QUESTION ON ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL IMPORT NEEDS, GIOSAN STATED THAT ROMANIA IS ESSENTIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN CEREAL GRAINS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION BUT DOES NEED TO IMPORT SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF SUCH ANIMAL FEEDS AS SOYBEANS; WEATHER IN 1978 HAS BEEN "CAPRICIOUS", SO IMPORT NEEDS MAY BE HIGHER THIS YEAR. ASKED FOR ROMANIAN VIEW ON COMMODITY PRICING ARRANGEMENTS, ESPECIALLY GRAINS, GIOSAN SAID THAT GOR SUPPORTS STABLE PRICES FOR ALL RAW MATERIALS.

3. ANDREI. CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED TO MIDDLE EAST AND DISARMAMENT. ON FORMER, AT SENATOR'S REQUEST, ANDREI OUTLINED ROMANIAN VIEWS, NOTING ROMANIAN APPROVAL OF SADAT INITIATIVE, ROLE OF SMALL STATES (READ ROMANIA) IN HELPING TO CREATE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, INSUFFICIENT ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY, IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED MOMENTUM, CENTRAL ROLE OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE, NECESSITY OF INCLUDING PLO IN ANY LASTING SOLUTION, AND ARAFAT'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANDATE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS. ON DISARMAMENT, SENATOR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH ROMANIAN PROPOSALS TO SSOD AND DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY DID NOT RECEIVE MORE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. ANDREI STRESSED PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S CONSTANT INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT, THEN DESCRIBED ROMANIAN APPROACH AS STARTING WITH SUCH PARTIAL MEASURES AS FREEZES ON MILITARY BUDGETS, WITH ACTUAL REDUCTIONS TO FOLLOW ("EQUILIBRIUM, BUT DOWNWARD"). ANDREI ALSO DESCRIBED ROMANIAN PROPOSALS ON SAVINGS FROM MILITARY EXPENDITURES TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, NON-USE OR IMPROVEMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND BASES (WHICH SENATOR CHARACTERIZED AS POLITICALLY UNREALISTIC). ANDREI REITERATED ROMANIAN POSITION THAT ALL INTERESTED STATES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN MBFR, AND HE ARGUED THAT NATO DECISION TO INCREASE MILITARY EXPENDITURES WILL ACCELERATE MILITARY COMPETITION.

4. MICULESCU. MINISTER GAVE A RESOUNDING "YES" TO SENATOR'S QUESTION ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPAND PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL PERSONNEL, THEN DESCRIBED EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN SOME DETAIL. LIKE GIOSAN, HE NOTED

THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR STUDENTS. SENATOR SAID HE PLANNED TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND AND TO REVIEW ADEQUACY OF EXISTING U.S. LEGISLATION. HE ALSO REFERRED TO ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND VARIOUS U.S. AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES AND OUTLINED THE SPECIALTY PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY. CONCERNING ADDITIONAL ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS IN 1978, MICULESCU ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR SOYBEANS AS CATTLE FEED, BUT HOPEFULLY UNDER MORE FAVORABLE CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS THAN ARE AVAILABLE UNDER STANDARD CCC TERMS. DISCUSSION ALSO COVERED ROMANIAN CORN AND SORGHUM PRODUCTION, BEEF AND PORK PRODUCTION, AND DIFFERENT SYSTEMS OF LIVESTOCK FEED LOT OPERATIONS.

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5. PLEASE PASS COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM TO SENATOR MCGOVERN'S OFFICE, ATTENTION JOHN HOLUM.

6. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
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Message Attributes

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